

Application No.: 10/618,310
Art Unit: 3727

Attorney Docket No. 20788.01
Confirmation No. 4761

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 4, and canceled Claims 2 and 3. Claims 1 and 4-8 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fread (U.S. Patent No. 4,133,996). Claims 2 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fread in view of Elliot (U.S. Patent No. 3,447,714). The Examiner indicated that Claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

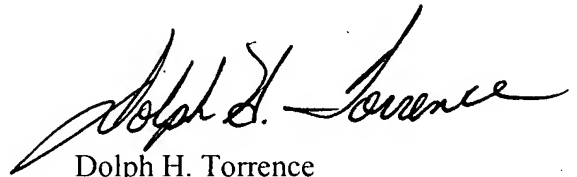
The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 3 and intervening Claim 2. The dependency of Claim 4 has been changed to now depend from Claim --1--. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 and its corresponding dependent Claims 4-8 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Application No.: 10/618,310
Art Unit: 3727

Attorney Docket No. 20788.01
Confirmation No. 4761

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Dolph H. Torrence
Registration No. 34,501
(703) 486-1000

DHT:NKU